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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TONKO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 19, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL TONKO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST JEREMIAH P. MCCLEERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the sad duty of recognizing the death in combat of Army Specialist Jeremiah P. McCleery, age 24, of Portola, California.

Mr. Speaker, if you read the observations of his friends, you very quickly realize this was not only an irreplaceable loss to his family and a monumental loss to his community, but it was also a terrible loss for our country.

Miah, as he was known, was simply a good kid. He made friends easily, he had a great sense of humor, and he had wanted to join the Army since he was 4 years old. He was an exemplary soldier who commanded the friendship and respect of his colleagues. He had fallen in love with a girl at Fort Hood before he shipped out, with their whole lives ahead of them.

A friend of his, Josh Rodgers, was asked when Miah McCleery was happiest, and the answer was, "doing anything with his dad." They had lost his mother, Collette, to cancer a few years ago. His father, Joe, worked at a refuse collection company and later at a sheet metal business, and Miah was often at his side.

That same friend was asked why Jeremiah had enlisted. The response, "he always wanted to when he was a kid. He probably just wanted to out of patriotic duty to go serve. And I think he wanted to go do his part."

The question first asked by Jim Michener thunders across the countryside with a loss like this: "Where do we get such men?" Mr. Speaker, I don't know how to offer condolences to Miah McCleery's family, to his father, Joe, to his sisters, Lynette and Chastity, and to his grandparents and many friends. The loss they bear is beyond my comprehension.

I can only offer my awe and gratitude that humanity has within itself a small band of brothers like Jeremiah McCleery who stepped forward not for treasure or profit nor even to defend their own freedom. But rather, to win the freedom of a people half a world away. And they do it because their country asks and because it is virtuous and noble.

A few feet from here in the Capitol Rotunda is a fresco called the "Apotheosis of Washington." It depicts General Washington, in uniform, ascending to the heavens, flanked by victory and freedom, and surrounded by the essence

and fruits of a free Nation. And in that depiction, Washington beckons.

From little towns like Portola, California, decent young men and women with promising futures, like Jeremiah McCleery, have answered. And I don't know where we get such men, and I don't know how their families can bear it. But I do know what we owe them. And I do know that we can never repay that debt, except to honor their memory and keep their sacrifice always in mind, those who gave up everything "to proclaim liberty throughout all the land, and unto all the inhabitants thereof."

HONORING AND REMEMBERING LES SARNOFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This is an era where new media and communication devices are seemingly created overnight. Was it only 3 years ago that YouTube bounced on the scene? It seems like it was last week that we first heard about Twitter.

Well, the first and most influential of the "new media" still plays a large role in our lives. Radio captures that magic in part because of the radio personalities who captivated us with their distinctive voices and wit, made larger than life by how much was left to our imagination in terms of the production and even what they looked like. William Conrad was the radio voice of Gunsmoke's marshal, Matt Dillon, who was played on TV by actor James Arness, 6 foot 6, tall and rangy with craggy good looks. William Conrad, the radio voice, sounded that way, but he was short and rotund. And while he looked distinctive, few would confuse him with a matinee idol. From Fred Alan, Jack Benny and Edward R. Murrow to Scott Simon, Garrison Keillor

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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